



November, 4, 2024

Mayor Trevor Bazinet

Town of Goderich

57 West Street

Goderich, Ontario N7A 2K5

Dear Mayor Bazinet and Town of Goderich Council Members,

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your invaluable support and contribution to the 2024 Multicultural Festival. Your council's support was instrumental in attracting more than 2,250 people to the 2024 edition of the Huron Multicultural Festival, a celebration of our community's diversity and a reflection of Goderich's inclusive and welcoming spirit.

*To refresh your memory, the 2024 Multicultural Festival kicked off the Canada Day weekend celebration on Friday night, with two Indigenous performers and an international food court featuring cuisine from Indonesia, the Philippines, India, an Indigenous caterer and the Wicked Witches food truck. The two performers were *Drives the Common Man*, a young Miikmaq*

Singer/Songwriter from London, and *Digging Roots*, the Juno-award winning Contemporary Indigenous Group of the Year. The Friday night event attracted more than 450 festival-goers.

On Saturday, June 29, the event featured an afternoon stage show, the international food court, a children's activity area, a global artisan market, and booths from local service providers who offer services to new immigrants. Performers on stage included dancers from First Nations, Indonesia, the Middle East, and Poland. A terrific Afro-Brazilian percussion batucada troupe - *T.Dot Batu* from Toronto - charmed the crowd. An interactive drumming session with educator/entertainer Babarinde Williams engaged about 40 children who "discovered the universal language of rhythm." Additionally, a young Ukrainian acrobat, having recently moved to Canada, wowed the audience with an invigorating routine. About 1,700 festival-goers attended the Saturday afternoon events.

Overall, the number of attendees increased from last year's event. We had 45 volunteers support the festival, many who were newcomers to Canada themselves. According to an Ontario government Tourism Regional Economic Impact report, the 2024 Huron Multicultural Festival generated at least \$150,000 in direct and indirect spending.

The planning committee comprised of the County of Huron's Cultural Services, Local Immigration Partnership and Economic Development staff and representatives from Huron Arts & Heritage Network is excitedly looking ahead to the 2025 Huron Multicultural Festival. We're looking forward to hosting the festival in Lions Harbour Park on June 28, 2025. We're planning

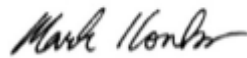
to extend the length of the afternoon stage show and establish an Ambassador program to engage immigrants who will guide the planning committee.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Town of Goderich to deliver the Huron Multicultural Festival. We are so grateful for this long-term partnership and support that enables this event to be delivered year after year. Together, we are creating an inclusive, enriching experience that brings joy to residents, fosters a greater understanding of our multicultural country, and signals to immigrants that this is a community where they are celebrated and belong.

With warmest regards,



Karen Stewart
Cultural Development Officer
County of Huron
also for Huron Arts & Heritage Network



Mark Nonkes
Manager, Local Immigration Partnership
County of Huron